

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-32. Canceled.

33. (New) A conveyor comprising a hopper device for receiving a bulk quantity of loose product selected from fruit or vegetable, said hopper device extending substantially along a screw-feeder arrangement and having a lower zone through which said product is delivered to said screw-feeder arrangement so that said product is conveyed from said hopper device to an outlet zone, said screw-feeder arrangement comprising a shaft and a helical surface protruding from said shaft, conveying spaces being defined around said shaft between corresponding points of said helical surface, wherein said helical surface has a variable pitch so that said conveying spaces widen along said shaft towards said outlet zone, in order to receive increasing quantities of said product.

34. (New) Apparatus according to claim 33, wherein portions can be identified in said screw-feeder arrangement, each portion corresponding to a given value of said pitch.

35. (New) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said portions comprise a first portion, in which said pitch is about 200 mm.

36. (New) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said portions comprise a second

portion, in which said pitch is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.

37. (New) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said portions comprise a third portion, in which said pitch is about 300 mm.

38. (New) Apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said portions comprise a fourth portion, in which said pitch is about 400 mm.

39. (New) Apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said screw-feeder arrangement is arranged below said hopper device.

40. (New) Apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said hopper device comprises a hinged side element.

41. (New) Method comprising conveying loose grapes along a conveying direction by using a screw-feeder, wherein said screw-feeder has a pitch increasing along said conveying direction.

42. (New) Method according to claim 41, wherein portions can be identified in said screw-feeder arrangement, each portion corresponding to a given value of said pitch.

43. (New) Method according to claim 42, wherein said portions comprise a first portion, in which said pitch is about 200 mm.

44. (New) Method according to claim 42, wherein said portions comprise a second portion, in which said pitch is comprised between 200 mm and 250 mm.

45. (New) Method according to claim 42, wherein said portions comprise a third portion, in which said pitch is about 300 mm.

46. (New) Method according to claim 42, wherein said portions comprise a fourth portion, in which said pitch is about 400 mm.